

**Bcc:** Cozad, David[Cozad.David@epa.gov]  
**From:** Thomas, Hattie  
**Sent:** Tue 2/5/2013 9:50:38 PM  
**Subject:** OPA Daily Digest, 2/5/13

## **OPA Daily Digest for 2/5/13**

### **Congressional Inquiries:**

**Sen. Claire McCaskill (Mo.)** – Letter – 1/29/13: Constituent concerns about fines for RRP Rule violations. Due: 2/12/13. Contact: LaTonya Sanders, 7555 (open)

**U.S. Senate Committee Energy and Environment** – Email – 2/4/13: Questions on PM monitors in Nebraska. Contact: Sarah Hatch 7199 (closed)

**Rep. Jeff Fortenberry (Neb.)** – Telephone – 2/5/13: Questions on TSDF's and financial assurance requirements. Contact: Sarah Hatch 7199 (open)

**Rep. Jeff Fortenberry (Neb.)** – Telephone – 2/5/13: Questions on EPA activities related to a dry cleaner in Columbus, NE. Contact: Sarah Hatch, 7199 (open)

### **State Government Inquiries:**

None

### **Local Elected Official Inquiries:**

None

### **Press Inquiries:**

**KSDK Channel 5, St. Louis** – Leisa Zigman – 1/23/13: Questions about EPA's costs at the West Lake Landfill Site in Bridgeton, Mo. Contact: Chris Whitley, 7394 (closed)

**Inside EPA** – Chris Knight – 2/5/13: Questions about the Flint Hills burning and wildfires exceptional event decision. Contact: Kris Lancaster, 7557 (closed)

**WNAX Radio** – Tom Riter – 2/5/13: Questions about EPA's meeting with environmental groups in Iowa regarding the CAFO permitting and compliance program. Contact: Kris Lancaster, 7557 (open)

### **Environmental Stories:**

**Kansas City Star - New EPA leader sure to draw fire as environmental fights intensify** - 2/5/13 - At age 80, Bill Ruckelshaus still remembers those pro-environment days in the early 1970s, when his old Republican boss, then-President Richard Nixon, urged Americans to make peace with nature and his party joined Democrats to pass laws protecting the air and water.  
<http://www.kansascity.com/2013/02/04/4048749/new-epa-leader-sure-to-draw-fire.html>

**St. Louis Post Dispatch - Missouri senators demand decision on controversial anti-flood plan** - 2/5/13 - It is one of the longest-running projects of its kind and also one of the most criticized. The \$160 million proposal to plug the last Missouri connection between the Mississippi River and its floodplain has languished for decades as federal agencies debated its merits.  
[http://www.stltoday.com/news/local/govt-and-politics/political-fix/missouri-senators-demand-decision-on-controversial-anti-flood-plan/article\\_60c7e97b-aa9b-50e9-a89f-8319ee91d000.html](http://www.stltoday.com/news/local/govt-and-politics/political-fix/missouri-senators-demand-decision-on-controversial-anti-flood-plan/article_60c7e97b-aa9b-50e9-a89f-8319ee91d000.html)

**Kansas City Star - Missouri lawmaker draws support for drone spy ban** - 2/5/13 - A Missouri proposal to ban spy-in-sky drones is drawing support from agricultural groups, a family lobbyist and the American Civil Liberties Union. A House committee heard testimony Tuesday on legislation by Rep. Casey Guernsey that would outlaw the use of unmanned aircraft to conduct surveillance on individuals or property.

<http://www.kansascity.com/2013/02/05/4049977/missouri-lawmaker-draws-support.html>

**Lincoln Journal Star - Ethanol slowdown not enough, say mandate critics** - 2/5/13 - Never in the history of corn-based ethanol have so many Nebraska ethanol plants been idle. "This would be the largest drop we've ever seen," Todd Sneller of the Nebraska Ethanol Board said as he reacted to the most recent idling announcement from AGP at Hastings. The shuttering over the weekend of AGP's 55 million-gallon annual capacity means seven of the state's 24 plants are out of the production picture, at least for the time being.

[http://journalstar.com/news/local/ethanol-slowdown-not-enough-say-mandate-critics/article\\_0c090845-2948-505c-a932-83c8a146e294.html](http://journalstar.com/news/local/ethanol-slowdown-not-enough-say-mandate-critics/article_0c090845-2948-505c-a932-83c8a146e294.html)

**Farm and Dairy - Roberts, Johanns fighting EPA permit layers** - 2/5/13 - U.S. Senators Pat Roberts, R-Kan., and Mike Johanns, R-Neb., have introduced legislation to eliminate what they say is a "burdensome, costly and redundant" Environmental Protection Agency, EPA permit requirement for applications of pesticides. "This double layer of red tape is costly to the agriculture industry and consumers. It also takes aim at public health departments by requiring permits on top of existing permits for pesticide use," said Roberts.

<http://www.farmanddairy.com/news/roberts-johanns-fighting-epa-permit-layers/47239.html>

**WHBF-TV Ch. 4 (Quad Cities) - Stopping millions of gallons of waste from getting into the Mississippi River** - 2/5/13 - Millions of gallons of untreated sewage water go into the Mississippi River from Bettendorf. That's what the Iowa DNR said happens each year. Area leaders are working on a plan that could stop so much human waste from flowing into the river. With so much sewage going into the Mississippi, there's concern that e. coli could lurk in the river.

<http://www.whbf.com/story/20963405/stopping-millions-of-gallons-of-waste-from-getting-into-the-mississippi-river>

**Christian Science Monitor - EPA doubles down on ethanol mandates** - 2/5/13 - In my previous column — Why I Don't Ride a Unicorn to Work — I used an analogy to describe the US government's approach to cellulosic ethanol mandates. In brief, they have mandated that something that does not exist — commercial cellulosic ethanol volumes — be blended into the fuel supply in the hopes that they can incentivize the industry into existence. They decided to require gasoline blenders to purchase the fuel, which as it turns out was a bit of a problem since it didn't exist.

<http://www.csmonitor.com/Environment/Energy-Voices/2013/0205/EPA-doubles-down-on-ethanol-mandates>

**Reuters - Outgoing EPA chief convinced Obama serious on climate change** - 2/5/13 - Of course he is, she tells them. "I don't think you need clues. The president has been really clear ... I'm not sure how much clearer he could be." And yet even Jackson herself was caught off guard last month, when sitting just steps from Obama during his second-term swearing-in, the president cited the threats posed by climate change so prominently in his inaugural address.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/02/04/us-usa-climate-jackson-idUSBRE9130XD20130204>

**Bloomberg BNA - House Committee to Investigate Science Behind EPA Greenhouse Gas Regulations** - 2/5/13 - The House Energy and Commerce Committee will investigate whether efforts by the Environmental Protection Agency to regulate greenhouse gas emissions are "scientifically well grounded" and will continue to review the economic impacts of other rulemakings brought forward by the agency under the Clean Air Act, according to an oversight plan released by the committee.

<http://www.bna.com/house-committee-investigate-n17179872185/>

**Electric Light & Power - Washington: Court Strikes Down EPA Biofuel Mandate - 2/5/13 -**

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) cannot impose a mandate for a non-existent product and then punish companies for failing to use said non-existent product, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit ruled. That non-existent product? Cellulosic biofuels, a type of ethanol made from non-food sources such as wood chips, switchgrass, and non-edible feedstock.

<http://www.elp.com/news/2013/02/05/washington-court-strikes-down-epa-biofuel-mandate.html>

**Press Releases:**

Link to all R7 press releases: <http://go.usa.gov/Qx5>

**National Smart Growth Conference Scheduled Feb. 7-9 in Kansas City, Mo. – 2/5/13 –**

Contact: Kris Lancaster, 7557

**Fact Sheets:**

Link to all R7 fact sheets: <http://www.epa.gov/region7/factsheets>

None

**Upcoming Administrator/RA Events:**

\* New additions noted with an asterisk

**2/6/13** - Meet and greet with Chairman Dennis Hedke, Kansas House Energy and Environment Committee, Topeka, Kan. Contact: Sarah Hatch, 7199

**2/7-8/13** - Strategic Planning Meeting, Washington, D.C. Contact: Julia Cacho, 7071

**2/12/13** – Black History Month Event, Regional Office. Contact: Sondra Tucker, 7796

**2/14/13** - Meet and greet with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Col. Anthony Funkhouser, Regional Office. Contact: Julia Cacho, 7071

**2/21/13** - Interagency Environmental Leadership Council Meeting, Regional Office. Contact: Ron Hammerschmidt, 7566

**2/22/13** - Interview with Ken Root, WHO-TV, Des Moines, Iowa. Contact: Kris Lancaster, 7557

**2/27/13** – Visit Kickapoo Nation, Horton, Kan. Contact: Wolfgang Brandner, 7381

**3/4-6/13** - Iowa State University Lecture Series – Guest Speaker, Ames, Iowa. Contacts: Josh Svaty, 7202 and Julia Cacho, 7071

**3/13/13** – Assistant Regional Administrators Meeting, Regional Office. Contact: Mike Brincks, 7799

**3/27/13** – Missouri Water Environment Association & American Water Works Association Joint Conference, Osage Beach, Mo. Contact: Karen Flournoy, 7782

**4/16/13** - Greater St. Louis Air & Waste Management Association meeting, St. Louis, Mo. Contact: Becky Weber, 7487.

**DRA:**

**2/5/13** – Meet and greet with John Frece, Director, EPA Office of Sustainable Communities

(OSC), Regional Office. Contact: David Doyle, 7667

**2/7/13** - 12th Annual New Partners for Smart Growth Conference, Kansas City, Mo. Contact: David Doyle, 7667

**2/14/13** - Meet and greet with U.S. Army Corp of Engineers, Col. Anthony Funkhouser, Regional Office. Contact: Julia Cacho, 7071

**2/19/13** - Air & Waste Management Association (A&WMA) presentation, Overland Park, Kan. Contact: Dana Peters, 7444

**4/15-17/13** - Attend Executive Management Council meeting, Washington, DC Contact: Dana Peters, 7444

**SA:**

**2/22/13** - Interview with Ken Root, WHO-TV, Des Moines, Iowa. Contact: Kris Lancaster, 7557

**3/4-6/13** - Iowa State University Lecture Series – Guest Speaker, Ames, Iowa. Contacts: Josh Svaty, 7202 and Julia Cacho, 7071

**RA/Immediate Office**

None

**Other Events**

**AWMD**

None

**CNSL**

None

**ECO/J**

None

**ENSV**

None

**PLMG**

None

**RA/OPA**

**\*2/6/13** – Meeting with the KS Committee Chair Energy and Environment, Topeka, KS. Contact: Sarah Hatch, 7199

**\*2/11-12/13** – Attend legislative session, Jefferson City, Mo. Contact: Sarah Hatch, 7199

**\*2/19-21/13** – Meet with US Senator Deb Fischer's Omaha and Lincoln offices. Attend state

legislative session. Contact: Sarah Hatch, 7199

**SUPR**

None

**WWPD**

**2/5-6/13** – Site visit with Meskwaki Tribal Utilities, Tama, Iowa. Contact: Stan Calow, 7410, Kimberly Willis, 7069, Ira Salvini, 7817

**2/7/13** - Missouri Water Classification Workgroup Meeting, Jefferson City, Mo. Contact: Bob Angelo, 7060

**2/7/13:** Development of Nebraska Rapid Assessment Method for Wetlands meeting, Lincoln, Neb. Contact: Eliodora Chamberlain, 7945

**2/26-3/1/13** - Water Quality Standards Managers and Coordinators Annual Meeting, Arlington, Va. Contact: John DeLashmit, 7821; Ann Lavaty, 7370

**2/27/13** – EPA/Missouri Department of Natural Resources Public Water System Supervision Coordination meeting, Jefferson City, Mo. Contact: Neftali Hernandez-Santiago, 7036, Carolyn Mitchell, 7187

**4/1-5/13** - 2013 National Training Workshop on Clean Water 303(d) Listing and Total Maximum Daily Loads, Shepherdstown, W.Va. Contact: Tabatha Adkins, 7128

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